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INFORMATION REPORT

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Military Tension in Venezuela

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

SOURCE

On 21 November a Major Casanova, Chief of the Maracaibo Army garrison, unofficially confided that he understood that an Army group headed by Marcos Perez Jimenez, Chief of the General Staff, was pressing President Callegos for the retirement of Romulo Betancourt, President of the Accion Democratica Party, from Venezuelan politics. This group also urged a deviation from Accion Democratica policies in the administration of the Government. Casanova stated that he had been ordered to Caracas for a meeting with the General Staff on 21 November and that at that time Maracaibo was calm and quiet. The only precautionary measure being taken in Maracaibo is the confinement of the Armed Forces to their barracks.

